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CD NO. 25X1A

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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- 25X1C 1. [redacted] prominent military and civilian officials of the Ministry of Interior met with Svetoazar Stefanovic, Chief of Cabinet of the Central UDB, in the Interior Building in Belgrade to discuss the present situation.
2. During a discussion of the present position of Yugoslavia in the face of continued Cominform attacks, Stefanovic asserted that an attack launched by the Soviet Union from Bulgaria, Hungary and Albania simultaneously could prove disastrous to the country.
3. Subsequently Bogdan Markovic, a section chief in the Ministry of Interior, asserted that he did not believe the Soviets would attack openly but would continue, as in the past, to infiltrate teams of guerrillas. The guerrilla tactics, he added, could be parried successfully. The only cause for alarm would be an outright attack by the Soviets and Satellites.
4. Markovic added that assistance from, and trade with, the United States constituted no guarantee, in themselves, against further Soviet aggression. He also reminded those present that, to the Western Powers, Yugoslavia was still a Communist country, and that all quarters were not convinced that Yugoslavia's break with the Soviet Union was final. The West, however, must consider the great risk it would take in abandoning Yugoslavia at this time. Victory for the Cominform would mean that the Soviets would be at the frontiers of Italy, Albania and Greece.
5. Although Yugoslavia is making an effort to disorganize the Cominform parties in the Satellite countries, continued Markovic, this is not sufficient. Economic aid from abroad was mandatory. In addition to long-range assistance, modern weapons and transportation facilities were urgently needed.

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Document No. **100-441101-100**
 No Change in Class. ☐
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 Class. changed to: TS S C
 Auth.: HR 70-2
 Date: JUN 7 1970 BY: 066

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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6. Markovic commented further:

"There are still many in this country who hope for a reconciliation with the Soviets in the belief that all Slavs should make common cause. They forget, though, that Yugoslavia has fought for her independence against all invaders, and to do otherwise at this time would betray our forefathers to whom this independence was so dear. There are also many enemies hidden in our Government who are working under direct orders from the Soviets. Minor dissident movements exist in the mountains and isolated regions of our country, but they are insignificant.

"Our greatest fear is that the West will abandon us. We still have hope that former Yugoslav citizens now in the United States will bring maximum pressure to bear on the Government of that country to save Yugoslavia from a catastrophic future. The United States would like us to form a coalition government, but this is difficult at a time when we are fully engaged in protecting ourselves from the Soviet Union.

"We have seen the Cominformists in our country align themselves with Italian Cominformists in conducting terrorist activities. We know that the sabotage of the S.S. PARTIZANKA was planned with the aid of Italian Cominformists. Against this new menace we must prepare our army to face any eventuality. Under the guidance of Tito, we must be ready to deal with any enemy, at home or abroad."

7. Following Markovic's comments, a certain Major Stojan Bruic stated to those present that Yugoslavia had taken precautionary measures against her enemies months previously. He reported that Army morale was high but that a certain sympathy for the Soviets still prevailed in the ranks. However, political commissars were reorienting the soldiers along more nationalistic lines.

8. Bruic pointed out that the Soviet Union was rendering enormous assistance to Albania. Albania, he said, was tiring of Cominformism and with the help of Yugoslavia, would one day understand the full extent of Soviet exploitation. Yugoslavia is currently setting an example to the Communist Parties of the Satellite countries, showing them that a country can still be Communist and yet "preserve its liberty". The Soviet Union is very concerned about this fact, because the impression that Yugoslavia has made on surrounding countries has forced the Soviets to employ special measures to keep those countries under control.

On this note the meeting ended at 9:00 p. m.

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